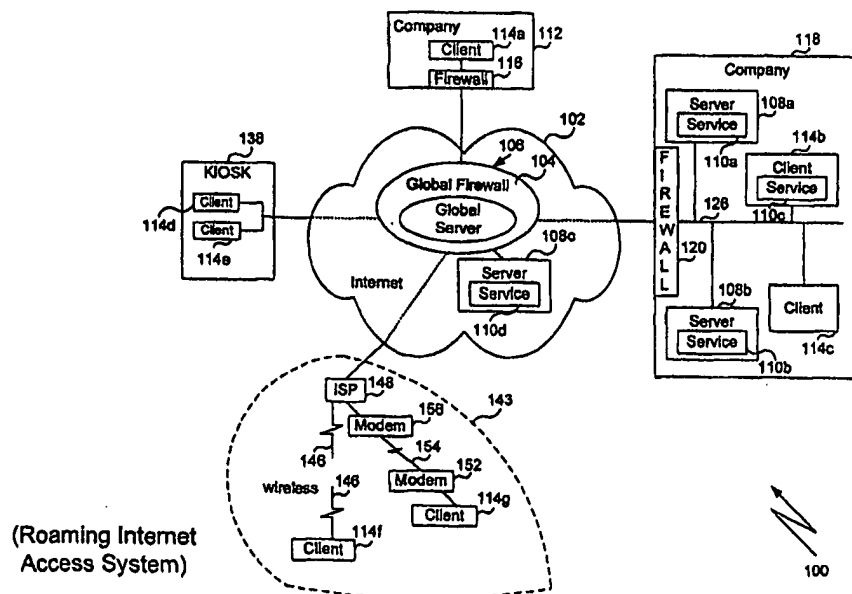


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(57) Abstract

A global server (106) includes a communications engine for establishing a communications link with a client (114a); security means coupled to the communications engine for determining client privileges; a servlet host engine coupled to the security means for providing to the client (114a), based on the client privileges, an applet which enables I/O with a secured service (110a); and a key safe for storing a key which enables access to the secured service (110a). The global server may be coupled to multiple sites, wherein each site provides multiple services. Each site may be protected by a firewall (116). Accordingly, the global server stores the keys for enabling communication via the firewalls (116) with the services (110a).